

art

galleries • museums • artist's talks

Hits at the Gallery Hop

Canadian Art Foundation's annual blitz has lots going for it By THOMAS HIRSCHMANN

Here are four shows to provide much-deserved candy for your brain as you gad about at Saturday's (September 20) Canadian Art Foundation Gallery Hop. Too bad the Gallery Hop map is so poor. Like something from Dungeons And Dragons, it offers dead ends and pitfalls such as the recently shuttered SPIN and vacated Virus Arts. More info at www.canadianart.ca or 416-368-8854 ext 395.

Sad songs

● **KARTE UCCI** at Redhead Gallery (945 Richmond West), to September 28. 753-104-5454. Rating: **NNNN**

KARTE UCCI'S KNIGHT IS A SAD DISPLAY. She's outfitted the Redhead Gallery with a few essential "sad" items like the spare modern white cheese toger with marshmallow roll pillow and a sleek sound system. It's all so Cuban. But wait, it gets sadder.

Ucci takes jilt songs with the word sad in their titles and mixes them together into one serious piece of garbled ambience. The music pours wistfully from the alienated-styled speakers, while voices reverberating off the white gallery walls. The music has been pressed onto vinyl, with the title stamped around the circumference of the label. Trying to read it may cause extreme distress, so take care.



Jakub Dolejš unique Sick, hanging at Angell, shows signs of huge talent.

On the walls are two framed works consisting of black type on white paper. In one, sad slogans are arranged in a spiral, in the other a tight rectangle. Both exhibit the sort of look we've come to expect from smart designers. Copying the project in a short duration is vinyl applied directly to the wall that reads with the phrase "get the fuck off my driveway" for what owning all

that stuff you cherish can do to you?

Chile charge

● **THE CHILE EXCHANGE** at a Space (902 Richmond West) to October 25. 416-579-9883. Rating: **NNNN**

THE SHOW ACROSS THE HALL AT A Space is cluttered like a child's bedroom, clashing with Ucci's minimal stuff. This group show is part of The Chile Exchange, which, not surprisingly, involved Canadian artists going to Chile on exchange, creating art interventions with some Chilean artists and then coming back to display their output. This show is impressive in its sincerity.

One of Toronto's finest artists, Babbar Madhivananaraj, displays photos showing his wallpaper-based works placed over ripped poster remnants on faded walls in Santiago, the capital city. His drawings focus on children, as does a small image of a child drawn onto a wall in the gallery, which is an aged version of a poster of a missing Chilean child. This work is sad, without irony.

Quebec artist Frederic Lafarge creates odd, sexual versions of such well-known figures as Santa Claus with a dangling penis and Pinocchio with his nose in someone else's bottom.

Chilean artist Ana Maria Wynnecken steals the show with a grubby plat-

form upon which a small white rhinoceros precariously grazes near the edge. It's a sharp reminder of how poorly we treat the world sometimes.

Orange juice

● **KELLY PALMER** at Post Modern (907 Spadina) to September 27. 416-579-4884. Rating: **NNNN**

KELLY PALMER'S WORK AT POST MODERN is fabulous. Bright orange hues swirl through beautifully painted landscapes, marrying the abstract and the real in a very satisfying way. Palmer and art guy Gary Michael Dault will give a talk Saturday (September 30) at 2:30 pm.

Big new talent

● **JAKUB DOLEJŠ** at Angell (890 Queen West) to October 11. 416-530-0444. Rating: **NNNN**

OVER AT ANGELL, THE TALENTED young Jakub Dolejš weds painting and photography. He paints elaborate backdrops and then photographs subjects, here unidentifiable historical figures, in front of them. The works are then printed large so the figures are nearly life-sized. It's theatrical, elegant and unlike anything else.

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